

REMARKS

Applicant hereby elects Group 1a, corresponding to Claims 1-16, with traverse for the reasons discussed below. The Examiner characterized Groups 1a, 1b, and 1c as different species of optical devices. Applicants suggest that this is not necessarily an accurate characterization of the claims.

With respect to Group 1a, independent Claim 1 is directed to an optical device for achromatizing an input optical beam that includes “a first refractive optical element” and “at least one additional refractive element”. Various claims dependent from Claim 1 are presented, including Claim 14 which further stipulates “a beam reshaper that receives optical input”.

With respect to Group 1b, independent Claim 17 is directed to an optical device that includes a “beam reshaper” in combination with “a first refractive optical element and at least one additional refractive optical element” that provide achromatic correction. Claim 17 is therefore somewhat analogous to Claim 14.

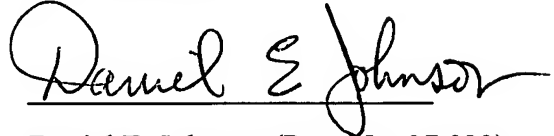
With respect to Group 1c, independent Claim 28 is directed to an optical device that includes a “first group of optical elements” that functions as a beam reshaper and a “second group of optical elements” that provide achromatic correction. Claim 28 is therefore somewhat analogous to Claims 14 and 17.

Thus, of all the independent claims, Claim 1 is arguably the broadest. Of course, no two of Applicants’ claims are of exactly the same scope, but to characterize Claims 1, 17, and 28 as being directed to different species of optical devices is to overemphasize their differences.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hoffnagle et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel E. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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